

Dewerk Peter Herring House  
166 Pearl River Road  
Old Tappan, Bergen County, New Jersey

HABS-<sup>6</sup>~~NJ~~-154

HABCO  
N.J.

2-TAPO

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Dewerk Peter Herring House  
166 Pearl River Road  
Old Tappan, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Mr. Charles De Wolf

Date of Erection: 1712

Architect:

Builder: Dewerk Peter Herring

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - sandstone;  
gables shingles; frame wing

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel on main  
house; pitch on wing,  
shingles

Historical Data:

The Herring family originally received their land by grant from the Duke of York. The farm has been handed down from generation to generation, never having been deeded to anyone. The present

N.J.  
2. TAPO  
1-

owner is a descendant of the original Herring family. There are four sheepskin deeds held by the present owner.

The main part of the house was erected in 1712; the frame wing was added in 1776. It is said that the wing was an outside kitchen entirely separated from the house; later on the gap was filled in by the present dining room. During the last seventy-five years alterations have been made, so that the whole is not architecturally harmonious.

The present farm buildings consisting of barns, corn crib, wood shed, and poultry houses are grouped into a rough resemblance to a courtyard in the rear of the house. None of these buildings are old enough to be of historic interest. This farm is an example of a typical Dutch settler's farm. The farm life has been carried on continuously for over two hundred years. Some of the food supply is still raised on the farm. Water is provided from the well partly by hand pump at the kitchen sink, but mostly from a bucket at the end of the primitive well sweep. The wood is still chopped and stored in the wood shed for the purpose of cooking and heating. The cellar still contains its supplies of pickled meat, vegetables, and preserves. Electricity has been installed, but the primitive rural life is still in evidence.

#### Bibliography:

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Clarence H. Tabor, Jr., local historian

*Walter E. Rutt*  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

*Seymour Williams*  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 25.37 TLO

A D D E N D U M

Peter Jansen<sup>1</sup> Maring (or Merring) the first of the family emigrated in the early seventeenth century; with him came a son Jan Pieterse<sup>2</sup> Maring. Jan settled in New Amsterdam and had four sons and three daughters. Jan Pieterse and some others got a deed from the Tappan Indians on March 17, 1681-82 for a tract of land on the west side of the Hudson. The patent was received from Governor Dongan of New York in 1686-87. Jan died in 1683, but the settlement went on under the leadership of Daniel De Clark. However, Cosyn Janse<sup>3</sup> Maring, the second son of Jan, is mentioned as a Tappan patentee. He received over nine hundred acres as his division; over half of it was at Old Tappan. Cosyn<sup>3</sup> died in 1743 at Old Tappan where he was an important man, having organized the Tappan Church, served as assessor, and captain of militia. He built the present house and the date is thought to be around 1704 or shortly after the division of the patent. The house is shown on the map of 1713. It passed to his son Jan Cosyn<sup>4</sup> who was born in 1693 and died 1771. The property was inherited by his son Johannes J.<sup>5</sup> and in turn by his son Abram I.<sup>6</sup> and by his son John A.<sup>7</sup> who was the last of the name to own the house. John A. died in 1874; surviving him were two daughters, one of these was Catherine<sup>8</sup> Maring, born in 1829, died in 1886. She married in 1852 Martin De Wolf. His oldest son John Maring De Wolf inherited the property and the present owner is a grandson of Martin.

The building is a good example of an eighteenth century farmhouse. There are two large rooms on the first floor of the main part both with outside doors, small rear rooms open directly from these. The chimney breast is paneled and the overhead beams are open. There is a large undivided garret. The frame wing is nineteenth century in style.

This account differs from the original history. For one thing, the date of erection in the original account is given as 1712, whereas Miss Bailey has given the date 1704; however, either date is acceptable. In our original history the house was said to have been built by Deverk Peter Herring; however, the earliest deed in possession of the present owner is a quit claim by several relatives and heirs in favor of Deverk Peter Herring made in the third year of the reign of Queen Anne, 1704. We assumed him to have been the builder, but Cosyn may have been the builder. The frame wing in our original account is said to have been built in 1776, but Miss Bailey feels that it is a nineteenth century addition. We mentioned, however, that alterations were made during the last seventy-five years and it may be that the wing originally was built in 1776 and that the alterations have so changed it that it appears to be nineteenth century in style.

Bibliography:

Bailey, R. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

Nathan E. Rutt  
Supervising Historian

*reviewed May 9, 1939*  
*JPP*